

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T NATO 08700

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, IT
SUBJECT: EAST-WEST STUDY - ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION

REFS: (A) NATO 8539, (B) NATO 7815, (C) NATO 7699,
(D) STATE 183303

1. ITALIAN SPC REP TOLD US THAT ROME BELIEVES THAT THE PAPER ON "COMMUNIST PARTY EVOLUTION" IN SECTION AIII OF THE IS OUTLINE - REF C) SHOULD BE ENTITLED "RELATIONS AMONG EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES" AND RESTRICTED TO THIS TOPIC. ITALIAN REP NOTED THAT SINCE THE PAPER IS LISTED UNDER SECTION AIII, WHICH DEALS WITH "SOVIET-EAST EUROPEAN RELATIONS", IT SEEMED LOGICAL TO ROME THAT THE PAPER SHOULD NOT COVER THE INTERNAL EVOLUTION OF COMMUNIST PARTIES. HE ADDED THAT ROME WOULD PREFER NOT TO DO SUCH A PAPER IN VIEW OF ITS LIMITED MANPOWER AND ITS OTHER EXTENSIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY BUT WOULD DECIDE AFTER HEARING THE US REACTION. WE PROMISED ITALIAN REP A CONSIDERED REPLY TO HIS PROPOSED CHANGE.

2. ITALIAN REP NOTED THAT THE "EVOLUTION IN (USSR) COMMUNIST PARTY DOCTRINE AND SOVIET LEADERSHIP" WOULD BE
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COVERED IN PART AI OF THE STUDY. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERY, HE SAID ITALIANS PLAN TO TOUCH ON WESTERN PARTIES IN PAPER ON "EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE SOVIET CP" UNDER PART B, BUT WOULD KEEP THE FOCUS ON THE USSR AND WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE INTERNAL EVOLUTION OF EUROCOMMUNISM.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE ITALIANS HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR

COMMITMENTS TO EAST-WEST STUDY (SIX PAPERS) ARE TOO EXTENSIVE. REFTEL A NOTED THEIR INTENTION TO TAKE ON YUGOSLAV PORTION ONLY OF PAPER ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO TREAT USSR AND EAST EUROPEAN POLICY TOWARD BOTH YUGOSLAVIA AND NNAS. WE ALSO SEE LOGIC IN THE ITALIAN COMMENT THAT SECTION AIII IS NOT THE PLACE TO COVER INTERNAL CP EVOLUTION.

4. RATHER THAN PRESS ITALIANS FURTHER WE SUGGEST ACCEPTING THEIR SUGGESTION FOR A PAPER ON "RELATIONS AMONG EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTIES" IN PART AIII, AND TRY TO ENLIST THE CANADIANS, WHO HAVE A LIGHT LOAD, TO DO THIS PAPER. IF WASHINGTON WANTS A PAPER ON THE INTERNAL EVOLUTION OF EASTERN (NON-SOVIET) COMMUNIST PARTIES, WE SUGGEST ADDING IT AS A SEPARATE PAPER UNDER AII, ENLISTING AN ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER, OR EXPANDING THE US PAPER IN THIS SECTION, HIGH NOW IS "EFFECT OF LEADERSHIP CHANGES" TO "EVOLUTION IN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERSHIP AND DOCTRINE", THEREBY PARALLELING THE PAPER IN AI ON THE USSR. ON EUROCOMMUNISM, WE SUGGEST CONTINUING TO WORK WITH THE UK (PER PARA 2, REF B), TO STRENGTHEN COVERAGE OF THIS SUBJECT IN THE ITALIAN PAPER ON "EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE SOVIET CP". END COMMENT

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE. BENNETT

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NNN

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